

Appln. No. 09/771,542
Amendment dated October 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The August 31, 2005 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

Inasmuch as the present Amendment raises no new issues for consideration, and, in any event, places the present application in condition for allowance or in better condition for consideration on appeal, its entry under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication that claims 5-11 and 18-21 are allowed is acknowledged and appreciated.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 15 and 17 are rejected as being obvious and unpatentable over USP 5,369,573 (Holloran et al.) in view of USP 5,974,005 (Kato). Claims 2, 13, 14, 16 and

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23-26 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Holloran et al. in view of Kato, and further in view of USP 6,473,797 (Hirasawa).

In response, claims 1, 2, 4, 13-17 and 23-26 are cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

PRIORITY CLAIM

At the bottom of page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner states that the certified priority document has not been filed. In this regard, the Examiner is not correct. Enclosed herewith is a copy of the transmittal letter and return receipt postcard stamped by the Patent Office evidencing that the Patent Office did in fact receive the certified priority document concurrently with the filing of the present application. If the Examiner would like to discuss this matter further, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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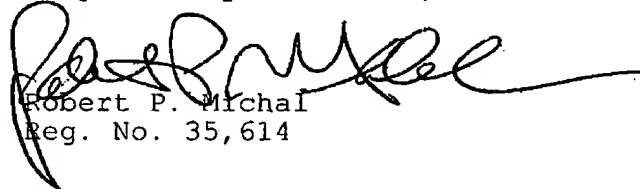
Entry of this Amendment under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.116, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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